

House Amendment 1033

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1 1 Amend House File 374 as follows:
1 2 #1. Page 1, by inserting after line 35 the
1 3 following:
1 4 <Sec. _____. NEW SECTION. 135.20 HEPATITIS C
1 5 AWARENESS PROGRAM == VETERANS == VACCINATIONS.
1 6 1. The department shall establish and administer a
1 7 hepatitis C awareness program. The goal of the
1 8 program shall be to distribute information to veterans
1 9 regarding the higher incidence of hepatitis C exposure
1 10 and infection among veterans, the dangers presented by
1 11 the disease, and contacts for additional information
1 12 and referrals. For purposes of this section,
1 13 "veteran" means an individual meeting the definition
1 14 contained in section 35.1.
1 15 2. The information to be distributed shall be
1 16 determined by the department by rule, in consultation
1 17 with the commission of veterans affairs. The
1 18 information shall, at a minimum, contain statements
1 19 indicating that:
1 20 a. The federal department of veterans affairs
1 21 estimates a hepatitis C infection rate in veterans
1 22 more than three times higher than for the general
1 23 population.
1 24 b. The infection rate for Vietnam veterans is
1 25 estimated to be even higher than for other veterans
1 26 groups.
1 27 c. The disease is caused by a bloodborne virus
1 28 readily transmitted during combat and combat-related
1 29 emergency medical treatment.
1 30 d. Many veterans currently carrying the virus were
1 31 infected prior to the development of medical screening
1 32 tests.
1 33 e. The hepatitis C virus often resolves into a
1 34 chronic infection without symptoms for ten to thirty
1 35 years before signs of resultant liver disease appear.
1 36 f. This unusually long latency period makes it
1 37 difficult to connect current symptoms with an
1 38 infection that may have actually been contracted
1 39 during military service decades ago.
1 40 The information shall also present treatment
1 41 options and shall specify a procedure to be followed
1 42 for veterans desiring a medical consultation for
1 43 screening and treatment purposes. The department
1 44 shall cooperate with the state commission of veterans
1 45 affairs regarding distribution of the information to
1 46 the veterans home, the county commissions of veteran
1 47 affairs, veterans hospitals, and other appropriate
1 48 points of distribution.>
1 49 #2. Page 2, by inserting after line 16 the
1 50 following:
2 1 <Sec. _____. VETERANS HEPATITIS C AWARENESS PROGRAM
2 2 REPORT. The Iowa department of public health shall
2 3 submit a report to the members of the general assembly
2 4 by January 1, 2007, regarding the development and
2 5 distribution of the information required by the
2 6 section of this Act enacting section 135.20 and any
2 7 resulting impact.>
2 8 #3. Title page, line 4, by inserting after the
2 9 word <veterans,> the following: <establishing a
2 10 hepatitis C awareness program for veterans,>.
2 11 #4. By renumbering as necessary.
2 12
2 13
2 14
2 15 _____
2 15 GREINER of Washington
2 16 HF 374.201 81
2 17 ec/sh/1415